upgradation of small scale industries functioning in Andhra Pradesh in collaboration with Indonesia is under consideration;

(b) the action taken on the request made by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in this regard; and

(c) the other steps proposed for promotion of technology upgradation among small scale industries through international cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) A project proposal prepared by the Andhra Pradesh Industrial and Technology Consultancy Organisation for international cooperation between India and Indonesia, to promote technology transfer from the Indonesian small and medium enterprises to the Indian Small Scale Industries and vice-versa was submitted to the Office of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, New Delhi for funding under the Scheme of "International Cooperation—Modernisation and Technology Upgradation". An amount of Rs. 6.50 lakhs has been sanctioned to the Office of DC (SSI) through whom the proposal was received.

(b) This Department has examined the proposal of APITCO and sanctioned Rs. 6.50 lakhs. State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been informed of the action taken.

(c) In order to promote technology upgradation and modernisation in the SSI sector, the Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries is implementing the scheme of International Cooperation—Modernisation and Technology upgradation under the "Plan" from the year 1995-96. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to National Small Industries Corporation, State Agencies, Industry associations and Export Promotion Councils for promoting modernisation and technolocy upgradation in the SSI Sector.

Foreign exchange earnings from Gem and Jewellery

*150. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the net earnings of foreign exchange from the gem and jewellery (export minus import of gold, diamond, gem and other previous stones etc.) for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLAHBULLI RAMAIH): The net foreign exchange earned in Gem and Jewellery Sector during last three years is as follows:—

(Value in US$ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports	Net Foreign* exchange earnings
1993-94	3994.70	2817.73	1176.97
1994-95	4500.40	2098.15	2402.25
1995-96	5275.44	3516.00	1759.44

*The net yearwise foreign exchange earning figures are only notional to the extent that there is invariably a time lag between imports and exports.

US ban on Indian Shrimps

*151. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA has imposed ban/ restrictions on the Indian Shrimp exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action proposed by the Government to settle the issue;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to approach World Trade Organisation to stay the restrictions imposed by the USA; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) USA has imposed a ban which is applicable to exports of Indian Shrimp and products derived from shrimp which have been harvested with commercial fishing technology which may adversely affect sea turtles. Based on ruling of the U.S. Court of International Trade given on 29.12.1995, Section 609 of the U.S. Public Law No. 101-162 is applicable to India,